

Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

2003 Field Evaluation Progress Report



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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Table of Contents

Summary	6
Introduction	6
History of the Nonpoint Source Program	8
Field Evaluation Process	8
Results of the 2003 Field Evaluations	8
Unsatisfactory Project Progress.....	9
Satisfactory Project Progress.....	9
Table 1. Active nonpoint source projects that were field evaluated during Summer/Fall 2003.....	11
Outstanding Projects for 2003	15
Jim Ford Creek Watershed Enhancement Project.....	16
Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection Project.....	22
Medicine Lodge Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Project ..	39
Paradise Creek TMDL Implementation Project.....	48

List of Figures

Figure 1: Locations of 2003 Nonpoint Source Projects	7
Figure 2: Jim Ford Creek in the Clearwater Basin	16
Figure 3: One of nine rural land use projects	17
Figure 4: 25-acre wetland built with participation of three landowners.....	21
Figure 5: Location map for Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection Project	23
Figure 6: Heavy equipment used to move soil and place large rocks for stream bank stability.....	24
Figure 7: Toe armoring and rip-rap bank protection techniques	25
Figure 8: Flow deflector or 'bank barb' diverting flow away from sensitive areas	26
Figure 9: Willow cuttings pressed into toe of bank slope	27
Figure 10: Harrowing soil after broadcasting seed.....	28
Figure 11: Prior to implementation of BMPs (Fall, 2002)	30
Figure 12: Post-BMP implementation (Spring 2003).....	31
Figure 13: Cut banks prior to reclamation	32
Figure 14: Cut banks six months after reclamation.....	32
Figure 15: Results of vegetation after five years.....	34
Figure 16: Illustration of the benefits of treated versus untreated land	34
Figure 17: Vegetation and stream channel after six years	35
Figure 18: Manure bunker with wetland in the background.....	36
Figure 19: Bridge crossing made from an old railroad flatbed car. Since this photo was taken, vegetation has taken over the flood plain where the photographer stood.....	37
Figure 20: Location Map for Medicine Lodge Creek TMDL Implementation Project.....	39

Figure 21: The success of this program depended heavily on convincing local ranchers and landowners that State and federal agencies would work with them to improve water quality without negatively impacting ranching operations.	40
Figure 22: Problems that are routinely found along Medicine Lodge Creek include unstable, steep stream banks caused by improper grazing techniques. This problem has been exacerbated by unusual weather patterns over recent years.....	41
Figure 23: One solution to bank erosion is to carefully place rip-rap and woody vegetation at the toe of the bank. With time, this bank will become completely vegetated and stabilized.....	41
Figure 24: Confined Animal Feeding Operation relocated away from Irving Creek	42
Figure 25: Vertical slopes from overgrazing were knocked down. Rip-rap and willows were added to stabilize the bank. This looks unsightly now but will appear quite natural after one or two growing seasons. The biodegradable silt fencing will break down.....	43
Figure 26: The stream bank in the foreground has been re-sloped, stabilized with rip-rap, and replanted. The vertical stream bank in the background has not yet been rehabilitated.....	43
Figure 27: Willows were planted as horizontal bundles and as transplanted rooted clumps. All woody plants are locally derived. Many of the vertical banks were stabilized at their toe with large rocks and woody plants. The upper bank will slough back until stabilization is naturally achieved. Vegetation will then continue to establish itself naturally.....	44
Figure 28: One effective method for planting willows involves the use of a water jet. This high-pressure water injection technique allows quick and easy planting of willow cuttings several feet deep along the bank and within the water table..	44
Figure 29: These willow cuttings were planted using water jet injection.....	45
Figure 30: Within several years, all of the areas shown in the previous photographs will look as good and function as well as this section that was completed just two years ago.....	46
Figure 31: Stabilized stream bank	46
Figure 32: Some of the members of the Basin Area Group (BAG) that supported the Medicine Lodge Creek project. Lloyd Bradshaw (second from right) is the project manager.....	47
Figure 33: Paradise Creek Watershed Urban and Rural Projects, Moscow Idaho	49
Figure 34: Berman Creekside Park Fall 2000.....	51
Figure 35: Berman Creekside Park Summer 2001	51
Figure 36: Bridge Street Park early Spring 2001	53
Figure 37: Bridge Street Park Summer 2001	53
Figure 38: Carol Rylie Brink Nature Park	54
Figure 39: Chipman Trail Fall 1999.....	55
Figure 40: Chipman Trail Summer 2002.....	55
Figure 41: Before Spring 2000.....	57
Figure 42: East Mt. View late Winter 2002.....	57
Figure 43: Fire Station Stream Bank Stabilization	58
Figure 44: Fosberg area prior to planting.....	59
Figure 45: Fosberg area after riparian planting.....	59
Figure 46: Leffingwell-Reid property after work was complete in Fall 2003.....	61
Figure 47: Construction of Lefors Wetland	62
Figure 48: Lightfield Stream bank before work	63
Figure 49: Lightfield Stream bank after work	64

Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

Figure 50: Mountain View Park plantings.....	65
Figure 51: Orchard Wetland.....	67
Figure 52: Renaissance Charter School riparian planting.....	68
Figure 53: State Line stream bank stabilization and riparian Planting	69
Figure 54: Streets site before planting	71
Figure 55: Streets site after planting	71
Figure 56: Styner riparian area before planting.....	72
Figure 57: Styner riparian area after planting.....	73
Figure 58: Sweet Avenue riparian planting	74
Figure 59: Moscow wastewater treatment wetlands planting.....	76
Figure 60: Paradise Creek Watershed Urban and Rural Projects, Moscow Idaho	78
Figure 61: Brockington Riparian Area prior to planting woody vegetation	79
Figure 62: Brockington Riparian Area immediately after woody vegetation was planted. Farm equipment will be restricted to designated waterway crossings. Plastic collars protect young plants from deer and elk until plants become established.....	80
Figure 63: Forbes area in Spring 2003, prior to wetland construction and riparian planting	81
Figure 64: Forbes area after Fall 2003, including wetlands and woody riparian plants ..	81
Figure 65: Garton Stream before the work.....	83
Figure 66: Garton Stream After the work	83
Figure 67: Hall and Mountain View Gully before work	85
Figure 68: Hall and Mountain View Gully after work	85
Figure 69: Harden Riparian Area prior to work	86
Figure 70: Harden Riparian Area after work completed.....	86
Figure 71: Predator bird habitat structure Summer 2003.....	89
Figure 72: Stream bank stabilization being installed Summer 2003	89
Figure 73: Morton extension area prior to work	90
Figure 74: Morton extension. Area after work completed.....	91
Figure 75: Townsend Waterway prior to reclamation.....	93
Figure 76: Within one year Townsend waterway will have stable banks and support sustainable, healthy riparian vegetation.	93
Figure 77: Biologs® stabilize stream bank.....	94

Summary

During the summer and fall of 2003, staff from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Technical Services Division evaluated fieldwork related to thirty-two nonpoint source (NPS) water quality enhancement contracts (Figure 1). These evaluations are detailed in twenty-eight individual reports (four of the projects include two contracts each) covering a variety of best management practices (BMPs) related to recognized NPS categories, including agriculture, hydrologic habitat modification, transportation, and urban storm water runoff.

All 2003 field evaluation reports, including photographs of all 32 contracted projects, can be accessed using the links in *Table 1*, page 11.

Four projects are highlighted in this year's annual progress report because they exemplify outstanding coordination, design, and implementation:

- Jim Ford Creek Watershed Enhancement Project
- Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection Project
- Medicine Lodge Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Project
- Paradise Creek TMDL Implementation Project

Descriptions of the four highlighted projects can be found in *Outstanding Projects*, starting on page 15.

Introduction

DEQ currently oversees approximately 50 NPS regional projects in Idaho, with each project assigned a contract number. If projects are extended to several years, with additional tasks and funding, additional contract numbers may be assigned to a project area.

All projects are subject to field inspections by DEQ, with DEQ's Nonpoint Source Program manager having set a goal to evaluate the progress of at least half of all current projects annually, assuring that the projects are completed in a timely manner and achieving their overarching goal of cleaning up and preventing NPS water pollution. During the summer and fall of 2003, staff from the DEQ Technical Services Division exceeded that goal by inspecting 32 of 50 on-going NPS contracted projects (Table 1).



Figure 1: Locations of 2003 Nonpoint Source Projects

History of the Nonpoint Source Program

Congress established the national NPS program in 1987, when it amended the Clean Water Act with section 319, “Nonpoint Source Management Programs.” Under section 319, states were given the federally-funded mandate to address NPS water pollution by 1) conducting statewide assessments of their waters, 2) developing NPS management programs to address those waters identified as impaired or threatened, and 3) implementing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved, federally-funded NPS management programs to clean up and prevent NPS pollution.

Initially, grants were awarded on a competitive basis to any state that wished to apply. Then, in 1995, EPA recognized that all states had developed maturity in effectively working to clean up and prevent NPS pollution and invited all 50 states to apply for grants on a non-competitive basis. This new approach allowed federal funds to be more widely distributed among the states, while still requiring that all projects meet certain strict standards. At that point, the EPA and the states formed the *Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators* (ASIWPCA), which led to the current NPS framework.

In Idaho, NPS funding has resulted in over 100 contracts for on-ground projects designed to clean up and prevent NPS pollution. Of the 100 projects undertaken since the inception of the NPS program, Idaho currently oversees approximately 50 on-going projects. Each project is described in detail through formal contracts established between DEQ and a variety of permittees, including federal and state agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Field Evaluation Process

DEQ used its list of NPS field project requirements to generate a detailed form for staff to use for field evaluations. For all evaluations, DEQ staff carefully reviewed the project’s sub-grant agreement and made notes prior to going to the field. The DEQ project evaluator routinely contacted the project manager and arranged to accompany the project manager, DEQ regional staff, and any other stakeholders to the field. In all cases, the detailed evaluation form was used as a guide to assure that all NPS requirements were being met in the field.

Results of the 2003 Field Evaluations

DEQ staff traveled to 25 geographical areas of Idaho and evaluated 32 contracted projects during the summer and fall of 2003 (Table 1).

Of the 32 contracts evaluated, 28 appear to be fully meeting their contractual obligations by demonstrating substantial progress toward completion of their designated tasks to

reduce, eliminate, or prevent NPS water pollution. Three contracts appear to be proceeding unsatisfactorily, and work on one contract has been delayed until next year.

Unsatisfactory Project Progress

Two of the projects where unsatisfactory work is occurring include storm water BMPs at the City of Blackfoot and storm water BMPs at the City of Pocatello.

During our evaluation of the Blackfoot projects (Contract Number S020) DEQ learned that the Blackfoot Tribe, who own adjacent land, has elected to not let the City of Blackfoot use their land at the outflow end of both retention ponds involved in this project. This denial of land use will cause the storm water capacity of one pond to be reduced considerably and will cause the other pond to not function as a flow-through facility as originally designed. No further 319 funds should be spent on either pond until this problem can be solved.

During our evaluation of the City of Pocatello's North City Park Wetland project, DEQ discovered that there seems to be a problem with the proposed location of the bioinfiltration/wetland facility. It appears that the area selected for the wetland and bioinfiltration basin will not be maintainable without the installation of a costly irrigation system. An irrigation system would be required because the bottom of the proposed wetland would be situated too far above the water table for the wetland to be self-sustainable. It is also unclear whether the conveyance pipeline and outlet that has already been installed will work properly in a storm event. After discussing the project with DEQ engineers and the city engineer, it is suggested that no additional 319 funds be spent on this project until these issues have been resolved.

Satisfactory Project Progress

The great majority of the projects evaluated in 2003 are proceeding satisfactorily. The project evaluations covered a variety of best management practices (BMPs) related to recognized NPS categories, including agriculture, hydrologic habitat modification, transportation, mining, and urban storm water runoff.

Projects evaluated include irrigation water cleanup, wetland creation, and settling ponds in south-central and southeast Idaho; Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) relocations, stream bank restoration, livestock exclusion, and restoration of an abandoned mine dump near Yellow Pine, in north-central Idaho. Finally, in the watershed above Winchester Reservoir, DEQ evaluated pollution prevention measures, including low-till and no-till farming techniques, and lake water cleanup techniques in Winchester Reservoir, including lake water aeration.

Table 1 lists all 32 of the NPS contracted projects that were evaluated in the field during the summer and fall of 2003. These 32 contracts occurred at 28 project sites around Idaho.

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Table 1: Active Nonpoint Source Projects Field Evaluated Summer/Fall 2003

Grant Year	Contract ^a	Project Name	HUC or SRC ^b	Tasks or BMPs Evaluated	DEQ Region
2000	Q609	Bear River Fencing and Riparian Enhancement	16010202	Stream bank stabilization, fencing, grazing plans, weed control.	Pocatello
2000, 2001	Q607 and S020	Blackfoot, City of, Engineered Wetland and Urban Runoff	17040206001834	Two storm water retention ponds.	Pocatello
1998,1999	Q529 and Q366	Coeur d' Alene Tribe Wetland Creation and Restoration/Lake Creek – Plummer	1701030423	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads.	Coeur d' Alene
2003		Cedar Draw Coulee Wetland	17040212000914	A series of three serpentine shaped ponds that will be interconnected with riparian wetland areas.	Twin Falls
2003	S093	Edson Fichter Nature Area	17040208000017	Revetments, seeding along stream bank, restoration of 700 feet of meandering stream channel, installation of 300 feet of pipe to convey water to a settling pond, installation of a small settling pond.	Pocatello
1999	S029	H 17 Drain TMDL Implementation Plan	17040209000034	200 feet long, 50 feet wide, sediment basin installed at bottom end of six-mile long irrigation canal; captures sediment from return irrigation water prior to discharge to Goose Creek and Snake River.	Twin Falls
2002	S055	Hailey Big Wood River Improvement	17040219	Placed 1,300 feet of stream bank stabilization. Constructed four rock-drop structures. Removed highway maintenance material adjacent to river. Planted woody and grass vegetation along bank and filter strip. Removed illegal landfill, including asbestos. Installed half-acre settling pond/wetland used for normal river flow and storm water runoff.	Twin Falls
2001	S015	Jim Ford Creek Watershed Enhancement	17060306	Road rocking and culvert installation. Six miles of exclusion fencing. 9200 willow cuttings, 3300 lodgepole pine seedlings, 1100 dogwood seedlings, 2500 Hawthorne seedlings, 100 alders, 100 cottonwoods, and 200 spirea planted. One-quarter mile of stream rehabilitation and re-alignment completed.	Lewiston



Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

Grant Year	Contract ^a	Project Name	HUC or SRC ^b	Tasks or BMPs Evaluated	DEQ Region
	S041	Kinsey Corral relocation Note: This project has been delayed and will be completed next year.	17040212001190	Visited current location of Kinsey corral and discussed the relocation and reclamation of the old site. Observed where 3,500 feet of exclusionary fencing will go to keep livestock out of McMullen Creek. Visited site where the new corral will be built.	Twin Falls
2002	S054	Lemhi Watershed TMDL Implementation	17060204000035	Fencing, diversion berms, pipe line, water troughs, well.	Twin Falls
2003	S079	Main Perrine Coulee Wetland	17040212000273	Future site for a concrete diversion structure, a large (8 acre) settling pond and several wetlands. Features will treat 80 to 90% of all the water coming through Main Perrine Coulee.	Twin Falls
2002	S051	Medicine Lodge Creek TMDL Implementation	17040215050100	Willow clumps, willow pole plantings. Toe rock rip-rap, vertical bundles of willows, V-notch weirs used for drop structures, grass, fencing.	Idaho Falls
2001	S039	North-central AFO Relocation		Relocation of numerous AFOs belonging to 27 operators over five conservation districts. BMPs include corral relocations, hardened crossings, fencing, culverts and water troughs.	Lewiston
1999	Q562	Paradise Creek (Urban) TMDL Implementation	17060108	Wetlands, stream channel restoration, extensive plantings, fencing, woody plant riparian buffers, wildlife habitat structures. Stream bank stabilization, noxious weed control, flood plain restoration.	Lewiston
2000	Q605	Paradise Creek (Rural) TMDL Implementation	17060108	Wetlands – 5 projects totaling 522,700 square feet within 11 wetlands, gully plugs, fencing – 16,000 feet, woody vegetation – 10,547 plants, herbaceous vegetation – 168,680 plants. Stream bank restoration – 18,750 feet, noxious weed control, storm water bioinfiltration ponds, vegetated buffer – 685,364 square feet. (Note: all figures are proposed amounts upon project completion.)	Lewiston
1997	Q297	Pocatello First Street Wetland	17040208	Three-acre combined wetland and retention/evaporation basin.	Pocatello
2001	S022	Pocatello North City Park Wetland	17040208	One small catchment basin constructed, conveyance pipeline and infiltration sump installed, large bioinfiltration wetland basin could be constructed in oxbow to Portneuf River	Pocatello

Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

Grant Year	Contract ^a	Project Name	HUC or SRC ^b	Tasks or BMPs Evaluated	DEQ Region
1999	Q508	Raft River Riparian and Watershed Demonstration	17040210000126	Rock crossings, rock drop structures-20, stream bank stabilization revetments, 12 diversion structures, 12 weirs, 12 concrete irrigation return flow structures, plantings including willows and grass, grazing management.	Twin Falls
2001	S023	Rapid Creek Riparian Project	17040212000191	Water well and pump, corral modification, pipeline, water troughs, 1,500 feet of fencing, stream bank restoration, grass and woody plantings.	Pocatello
2001	S026	Rock Creek Restoration	17010304	Two storm water detention ponds, stream bank sloping and stabilization geo-matting, seeding, trees, shrubs, sprinkler system, installation of 5000 yards of topsoil, removal of old concrete from a two acre area, installation of two pedestrian bridges across Rock Creek.	Twin Falls
2001	S024	Santa Creek Stream Bank Restoration	17010304	Electric fencing, hard crossings, re-vegetation along stream bank including wild rose, willow, aspen, thin leaf alder, syringa, wild apple, white pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and larch.	Coeur d'Alene
1999, 2000	Q564 and S009	Scriver Creek Watershed Roads and Forested Lands	17050112	Sediment control BMPs for dirt roads including culverts, gravel road base, road sloping, ditches, two sediment collection/measuring boxes.	Boise
1996	Q444	Sheridan Creek Restoration	17040202	Nine large diversions completed, (one remaining to be completed), 14 miles of fencing, 10 rock check dams, six culverts. Numerous rock drop structures, 0.5 mile of riparian plantings along stream banks, one water well.	Idaho Falls
2003	Not yet assigned	Stibnite Mine Meadow Creek Restoration	17060208000385	Two sub-project areas include the Glory Hole project and Meadow Creek area. Glory Hole BMPs include relocation and stabilization of mine tailings, adjacent to Meadow Creek. Meadow Creek BMPs include construction of a large composting operation, application of compost to reclaimed mine waste piles, additional reclamation of mine waste piles, installation of stream bank plantings	Boise
2001, 2002	S016, and S053	Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection	16010102	Numerous rock barbs, 13,267 feet of stream bank sloping and rip-rapping, 13,267 feet of stream bank plantings including grass and woody vegetation, 10,000 of fencing, drop fencing for variable flows, one 18 foot wide and 66 foot long bridge across Thomas Fork River, one manure separator, one wetland complex.	Pocatello
2000	Q606	Willow /Boulder Creeks BMP Implementation	17050123	Fencing, hardened crossings, trees and scrubs, stream bank restoration and stabilization, cattle exclusion, pest management.	Boise
2002	S043	Winchester Lake In-Lake Phosphorous Reduction	17060306	Five electric powered aerators installed on Winchester Lake, one fish cleaning station.	Lewiston

Idaho Nonpoint Source Program

Grant Year	Contract ^a	Project Name	HUC or SRC ^b	Tasks or BMPs Evaluated	DEQ Region
1999	S011	Winchester Lake Upper Lapwai Creek Watersheds	17060306	Nine fish friendly culverts, filter strips between cultivated fields and dirt roads, no-till farming techniques applied to 30% of all cultivated fields, reduced till farming techniques applied to 60% of all cultivated fields, grass planted in intermittent waterways.	Lewiston

a More than one contract number for a project indicates that additional funding was later granted for additional tasks.

b Eight digit numbers indicate Hydrologic Unit code (HUC); 14 digit numbers indicate Stream Reach Code (SRC)

Outstanding Projects for 2003

Four projects in this year's annual progress report exemplify outstanding coordination, design, and implementation:

- Jim Ford Creek Watershed Enhancement Project
- Thomas Fork Stream Bank Protection Project
- Medicine Lodge Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Project
- Paradise Creek TMDL Implementation Project

Summaries for each of these outstanding projects are presented in the following sections.